

full access to the border region. Unfortunately, the land manager policies that we have on our southern borders allow the criminal element unfettered access but prohibit the Border Patrol from going into those exact same areas.

The traffic barriers that are put up in this picture on Federal lands in the south are not border barricades to stop illegals coming in from Mexico, or drug cartels, or human traffickers. They are to stop the Border Patrol from going into Federal lands on our southern border. The end result of this activity of all these drug traffickers, the human traffickers coming in, is the massive amount of environmental damage that is done.

If I could give a quote from a 2007 article in the Tucson Weekly dealing with Ironwood National Monument talking about these smugglers that are coming in and their vehicles, mostly stolen from Phoenix: They often travel at night without headlights, with tape over the brake lights. They have been clocked tearing through the monument's dirt roads at 89 miles an hour, endangering the lives of residents and visitors alike. And it also ensures that many of these load vehicles never make it out of the monument, for they smash into trees and run into ditches. The BLM has towed 300 vehicles a year out of this one monument since the year 2000.

These loaded vehicles, as well as the constant foot traffic, destroy habitat and threaten cultural sites and endangered species.

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The trash that is left behind, this is from Ironwood, requires pickup crews to have biohazard training and armed guards watching them as they do their work. They have even attacked the cacti in the area, simply cutting it down, leaving it there across roads to create a barrier so they can stop park visitors and there either rob them or steal their autos at the same time. This also destroys the natural environment that happens to be there.

This is not just taking place in the South, I want to emphasize, though. It is also taking place in the North. Although 40 percent of the land on our southern border between California and El Paso is owned by the Federal Government, we have the same situation on our northern borders, with over 1,000 miles of land, 13 States that intersect 12 national parks, four Indian reservations; and the exact same problem exists on our northern border.

In a letter to House Republicans, Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano talked about Border Patrol issues in the Spokane sector up in Washington. She wrote, the sector is currently working with Interior and Forest Service regarding Endangered Species Act issues related to grizzly bears and road use. Government biologists claim agents in vehicles on some roads are detrimental to bears. The

sector, however, must occasionally have some motorized presence in those areas, and a related important issue is retaining access to critical areas. The sector must maintain the ability to respond via a motor vehicle when required.

The importance of this?

Well, the guy who was charged in the 1997 plot to bomb New York City's subway system crossed illegally across our northern border into Washington.

In 2005, a 360-foot drug smuggling tunnel on private land was also found going from Canada to Washington. This illustrates how much effort smugglers are willing to do to try to attempt to come into this country, not just in the north, but also in the south.

We had a testimony today in Resources where some people in the Park Service said, well, if there are exigent circumstances, obviously we make allowances for the Border Patrol to go in there. The problem, though, is definition of that term. Interior defines that term as a life and death situation. Homeland Security defines it as when there is evidence of a crossing. Those definitions are in conflict.

Until the Department of the Interior and National Park Service rules are changed in both the North and the South along our borders and allow access to Federal Border Patrol and Federal employees, there is no amount of numbers that's going to make a difference. Instead, we simply have the worst of both worlds on both borders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FEMA IMMEDIATE-NEEDS FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, our hearts go out to victims of recent floods and natural disasters, but I also fear that we suffer from the old adage, "Out of sight, out of mind." Once the cameras are packed away and the news crews leave for their next breaking story, what happens to the victims and the survivors of our natural disasters?

You know, one would hope that the system of emergency response would keep on plugging away and assisting the families in need across this country. But sometimes, unfortunately, that system breaks down.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the voices of my constituents in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, to the floor of the people's House.

In 2008, homes along the northern shore of Lake Koshkonong and the surrounding community were absolutely

devastated by a record-setting flood. This was a 500-year flood that ravaged much of the Midwest and, in particular, Wisconsin and Iowa.

During that storm, I knew that the damage was going to be devastating and that many of the houses in our community would be beyond repair. But what I didn't know was that after nearly 2 years after the floods, our government would be leaving those hard-working Americans behind. You see, in February of this year, FEMA instituted what it calls "immediate-needs funding." Basically, they are freezing already approved funds to folks in Wisconsin and in other disaster areas across the country.

A couple of weekends ago I had the chance to visit with the property owners who were affected from the district that I have the privilege of representing. These are survivors of the 2008 floods. I wanted to hear their stories. Many brought photos, letters, and all brought unique stories and anger and frustration.

I met first with Gene and Marie Harris at their home on Lamp Road, one of the most extensively damaged neighborhoods in this flood. The damage was so extensive that their house is absolutely uninhabitable, and has been since the flood. They showed me photos of before and during and after, and we talked about the tangle of bureaucratic red tape that they've waded through in order to get approved for FEMA money.

But they were approved for FEMA money, until the freeze took effect. When I asked Marie to recall what they went through back in June of 2008, not surprisingly, she welled up with tears.

I met with other families affected, a family who had four generations who lived in a property that is also beyond repair. He talked about the generations having put their heart and soul into remodeling.

I met with a young family who had several properties in the area. This young family, with two young sons, decided that, in order to plan for their retirement, rather than investing in a 401(k), they were going to buy a few bungalows along the lake shore and rent them out. After they paid off the mortgage, this would help with their retirement. So they bought five bungalows. Three out of the five were damaged in the flood beyond repair. The remaining two are reparable.

But what's happening, as they wait for those frozen funds, is that this family is having to pull out of their kids' college funds and money that they were saving for their retirement in order to pay mortgages, taxes on properties that are uninhabitable, and for which they are getting no rental income.

They brought when they met with me a letter that asks, and I'm only reading a part: but why freeze the funding now? We've been waiting almost 2 years, and during this time we must still pay taxes, mortgages, and mow what is left